

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-12 and 14-18 are currently active in this case. Claims 10, 12 and 18 have been amended by the current amendment. No new matter has been added. Regarding the amendment to claim 10, see, by way of example, page 22 lines 3-15 of the Specification.

In the outstanding office action, claim 12 was objected to as being indefinite; claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for failing the written description requirement; claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; and claims 10-12 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over published US patent application No. 2001/0045456 to Smith in view of US patent No. 5,689,478 to Hale et al.

Claim 12 has been amended in response to the claims objection and 18 has been amended to correct a lack of antecedent basis issue.

Applicant submits that the amendment to claim 10 renders the 35 USC 112, first paragraph, rejection moot. As stated above, claim 10 finds support at least at page 22 lines 3-15 of the Specification.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicants' representative on April 10, 2006. Applicants' representative proposed clarifying claim 10 to define that the objective execution means processes the ticket printing objective action with a higher priority relative to the processing of the product sales data. The examiner acknowledged that, pending a further review of the applied prior art, the amendment appears to define over the existing rejections. Consequently, applicants have amended claim 10 as proposed during the April 10, 2006 interview.

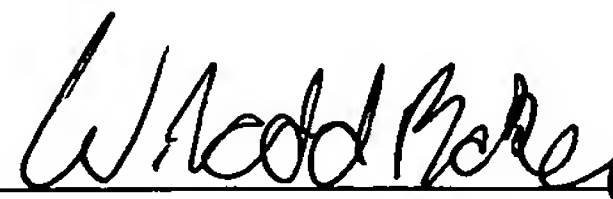
In short, none of the applied art teaches or suggests a data processing apparatus including objective execution means for processing a ticket printing objective action with a higher priority relative to the processing of product sales data. As can be seen in Figure 2 and described in paragraph [0020] of Smith, the central computer 26 coordinates and controls each combination fuel dispensing and lottery ticket dispensing system 10. However, Smith does not teach or suggest that the central computer 26 includes means for processing a ticket printing objective action with a higher priority relative to the processing of product sales data. Hale et al. does not remedy that deficiency. Consequently, Smith is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claim 10 when considered alone or in combination Hale et al.

Claims 11, 12, and 14-18 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reason that claim 10 is believed to be allowable.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. And early in favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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